

Rahul Chakraborty is a professor at Texas State university. He wrote a great scholarly article called *A Short note on Accent-bias, Social Identity and Ethnocentrism*. This article explores concepts such as social identity theory (S.I.T.). This is a theory that people will naturally identify themselves with others who share similar traits as them. S.I.T explains that this tendency to categorize ourselves gives us a feeling of familiarity and belongingness. People who are in the same social group of ours form “ingroups” and the people that are not form “outgroups”. This leads to the topic of ethnocentrism. Members of ingroup believe that their group is the center of everything and cannot help but to compare outgroup characteristics to the more familiar ingroup characteristics. Accents are a very typical characteristic that people tend to categorize each-other with. This often leads to biases that we may be unaware of but still pervade in our lives and behaviors. The author then offers some tips that can help mitigate the issue of accent discrimination. Some of the tips included the use of speech language pathologists to help nonnative speakers improve their pronunciation in their nonnative language.

This article is a very important part of my portfolio explains much of the nomenclature needed to understand why unconscious bias exists. This article is a cornerstone to my project as it provides me with a new understanding of nonnative accent bias. A particularly like the quote “social identity is the primary construct of ethnocentrism”. I also like how Rahul explains that a certain level of ethnocentrism is healthy and normal. However, when ingroups feel too much of a sense of ethnocentrism, serious problems can emerge. I do see myself arguing some of the suggestions that is presented near the end of the article. Some of these suggestions include SLP’s helping people with accent reduction. Another one of my sources can help me argue that maybe accent reduction is not an ethical practice to conduct. However I can understand how a certain level of training in pronunciation can be paramount for effective communication.

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